SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
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BRACE YOURSELF, READER-- HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BECOME...
"SUPERMAN FOR A DAY!"
PLUS
IN THIS ISSUE YOU WILL MEET THE MAN OF STEEL'S LAWYER!
WHO are the LORDS OF THE ULTRA REALM?

In this crazy world we all need a friend like...

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SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
LITTLE DO THOSE ONLOOKERS KNOW I'M USING MY SUPER-HEARING TO BLOT OUT THEIR VOICES!
AFTER THE HECTIC MORNING I'VE HAD, I JUST WANT TO RELAX AND LET MY MIND WANDER IN PEACE AND QUIET!
THERE HE GOES AGAIN! NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I SEE HIM FLY OVER THE CITY, IT'S STILL A KICK TO SEE SUPERMAN IN ACTION!
I WONDER WHAT KIND OF CRISIS...
WOW!
SUPERMAN--FLYING OVER MY WINDOW!
IF ONLY...
MY, HE'S CERTAINLY...
YEAH, BUT...
WHADYA FIGURE HE...
COULD BE HE...
"SUPERMAN FOR A DAY!"
S-4816

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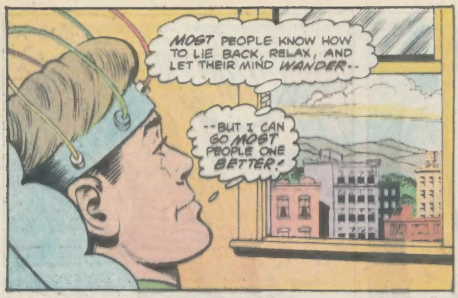
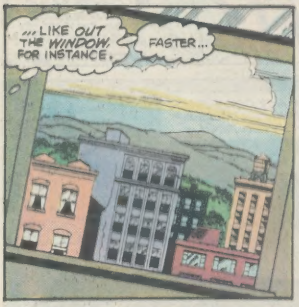
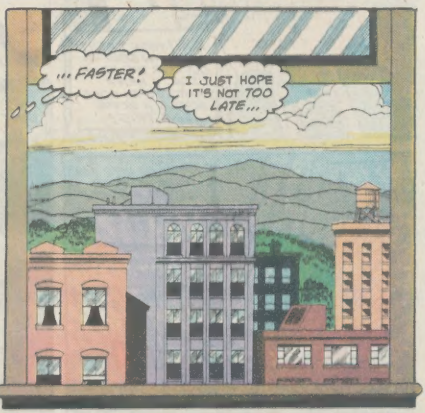
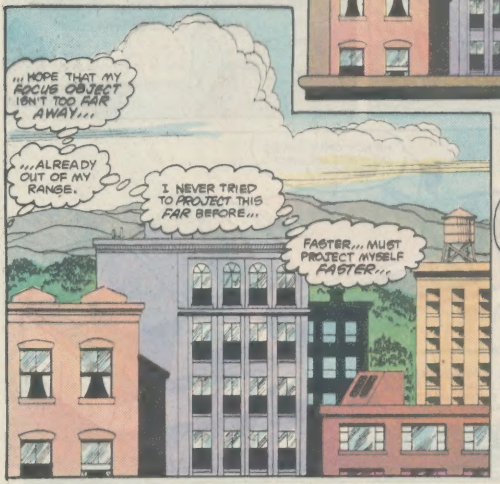
...IF ONLY I COULD FLY AROUND AND HELP PEOPLE WITH ALL THOSE POWERS THE WAY SUPERMAN DOES.
I'D GIVE ANYTHING TO KNOW WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE...
...TO SEE THE WORLD THROUGH SUPERMAN'S EYES...
...JUST FOR A DAY!
MARK!
THERE HE IS, DOCTOR--AT THE WINDOW.
WHAT WAS SO FASCINATING OUT THERE, MARK?
UH... THE SKYLINE, DOC! I'M STILL NOT USED TO THE BIG CITY!
WELL, YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME FOR SIGHT-SEEING AROUND METROPOLIS--
--AFTER WE FINISH CONDUCTING OUR EXPERIMENTS.
SAME PROCEDURE AS THE OTHER SESSIONS, MARK. ANY QUESTIONS?
NOT A ONE, DOC. I'M FEELING REALLY UP FOR THIS TODAY.
IN FACT, I'M GONNA GIVE IT ALL I'VE GOT! TODAY I'M GONNA PUSH THOSE NEEDLES OF YOURS ALL THE WAY OFF THE SCALES.
THAT'S QUITE A PROMISE, MARK... CONSIDERING HOW IMPRESSIVE YOUR ESPER ABILITIES HAVE PROVEN SO FAR.
I TRUST YOU'VE CHOSEN A DISTINCT MENTAL FOCUS OBJECT TO HELP YOU BEGIN THE PROJECTION PROCESS?
YOU BET IT, DOC.
MAN, DO I HAVE A FOCUS OBJECT FOR YOU!


MOST PEOPLE KNOW HOW TO LIE BACK, RELAX, AND LET THEIR MIND WANDER--
--BUT I CAN GO MOST PEOPLE ONE BETTER!

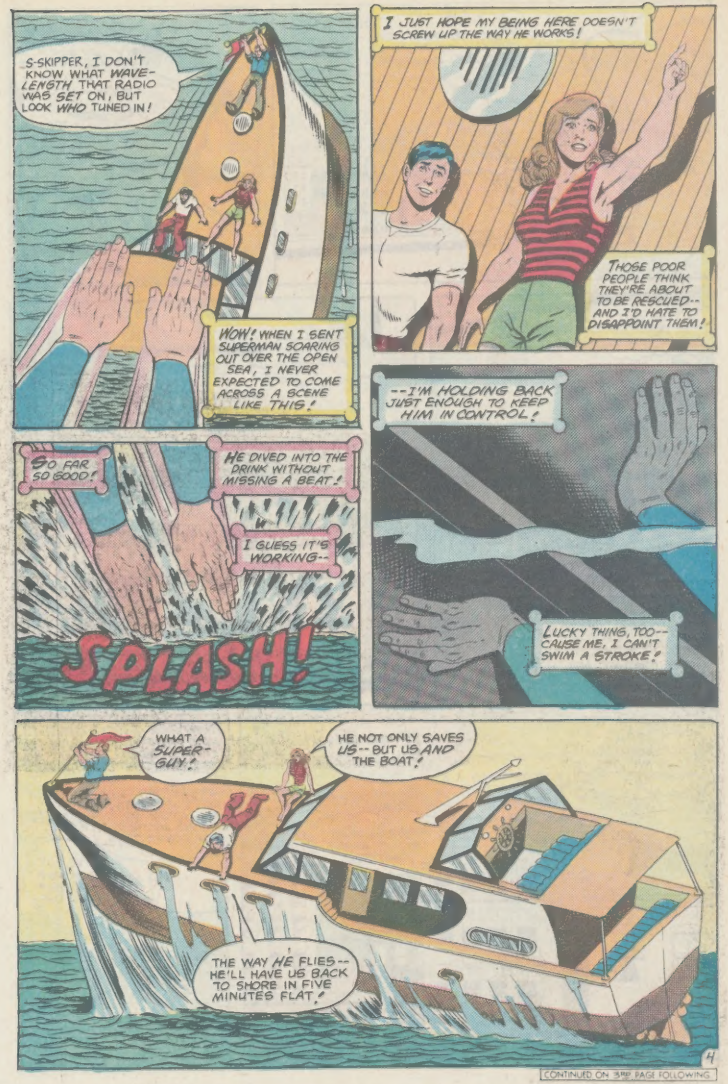
IF I CONCENTRATE HARD ENOUGH, MY MIND DOESN'T JUST WANDER--
--IT TRAVELS JUST WHERE I DECIDE TO SEND IT!
LIKE...


...LIKE OUT THE WINDOW, FOR INSTANCE.
FASTER...


...FASTER!
I JUST HOPE IT'S NOT TOO LATE...


...HOPE THAT MY FOCUS OBJECT ISN'T TOO FAR AWAY...
...ALREADY OUT OF MY RANGE.
I NEVER TRIED TO PROJECT THIS FAR BEFORE...
FASTER... MUST PROJECT MYSELF FASTER...

TWENTY-SIX MINUTES LATER, EIGHTY-ONE MILES OUT TO SEA...
WE SENT THE DISTRESS SIGNAL! ALL WE CAN DO IS PRAY ANOTHER SHIP PICKED IT UP!
WE'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT HELP IS ON THE WAY!


S-SKIPPER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAVE-LENGTH THAT RADIO WAS SET ON, BUT LOOK WHO TUNED IN!
WOW! WHEN I SENT SUPERMAN SOARING OUT OVER THE OPEN SEA, I NEVER EXPECTED TO COME ACROSS A SCENE LIKE THIS!
I JUST HOPE MY BEING HERE DOESN'T SCREW UP THE WAY HE WORKS!
THOSE POOR PEOPLE THINK THEY'RE ABOUT TO BE RESCUED-- AND I'D HATE TO DISAPPOINT THEM!
SO FAR SO GOOD!
HE DIVED INTO THE DRINK WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT!
I GUESS IT'S WORKING--
SPLASH!
--I'M HOLDING BACK JUST ENOUGH TO KEEP HIM IN CONTROL!
LUCKY THING, TOO-- CAUSE ME, I CAN'T SWIM A STROKE!
WHAT A SUPER-GUY!
HE NOT ONLY SAVES US-- BUT US AND THE BOAT!
THE WAY HE FLIES-- HE'LL HAVE US BACK TO SHORE IN FIVE MINUTES FLAT!

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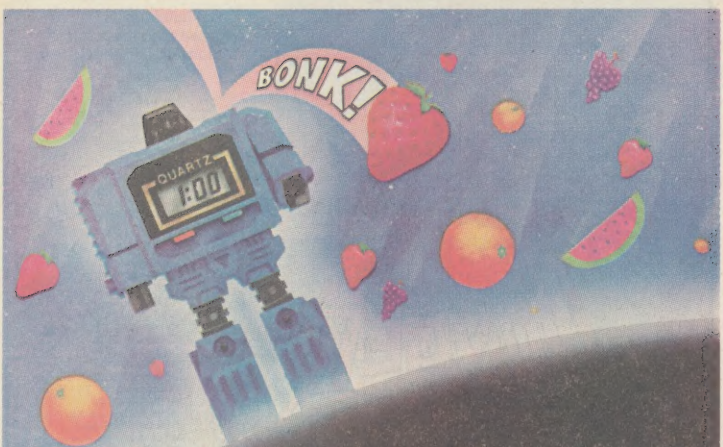

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The Bonkers! Robot-Watch is two kinds of space-age fun. On your wrist, it's a digital watch. Off the strap, it transforms into a robot. You can get it from Bonkers!—the fruit candy with the superfruity middle. And Bonkers! comes in four out-of-this-world flavors—strawberry, grape, orange and watermelon.

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Please send me Bonkers! Robot-Watch, available from Bonkers! Fruit Candy. The watch shows the time and date and is made of durable blue plastic with a black band. Here's $3.95 and the UPC symbol from 3 Super Fruity Bonkers! labels. That's the part with the lines and numbers that looks like this:

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Void where taxed or prohibited. Offer good only in U.S.
Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.
The watch comes with a 1 year limited warranty.

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Bob Geldolf proved an individual's efforts to end hunger in Ethiopia could make a difference.

We agree.

Front cover: Neal Adams and Dick Giordano
Back cover: Bill Sienkiewicz

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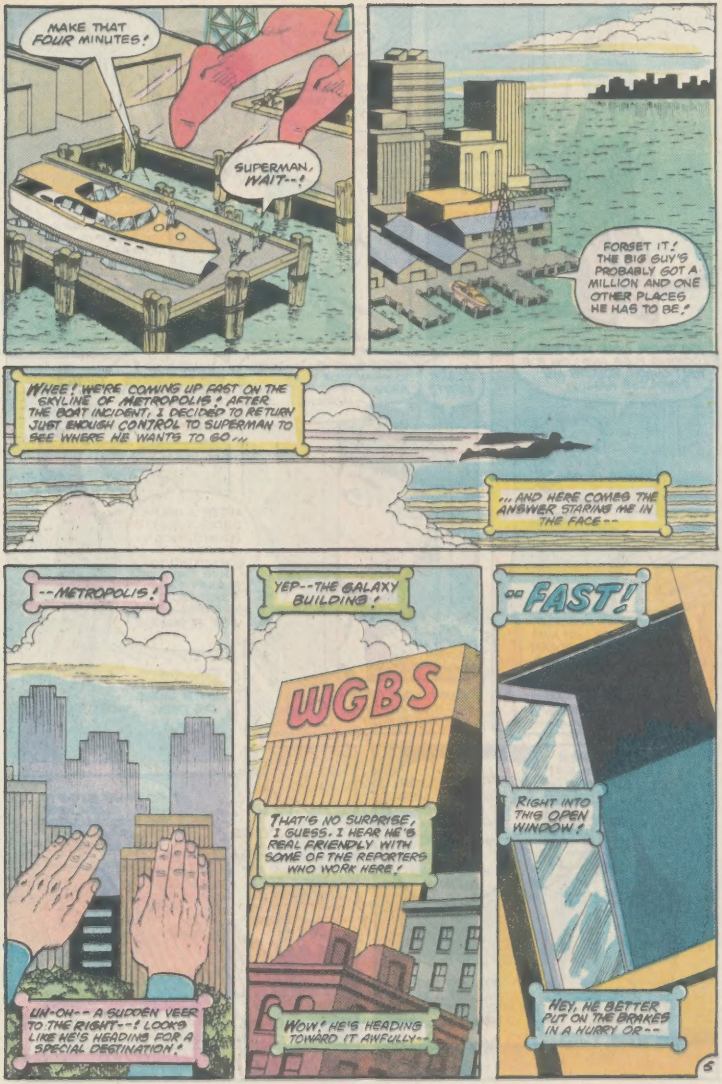
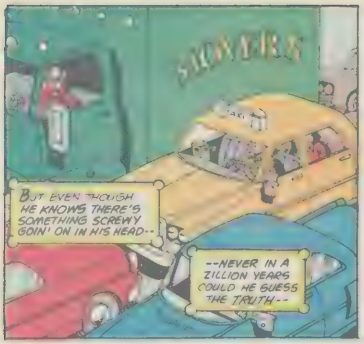
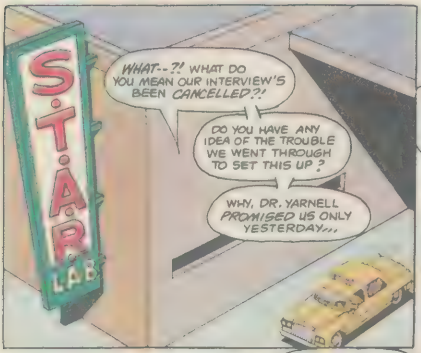
All profits from the sale of this book will be donated to famine relief in Ethiopia.

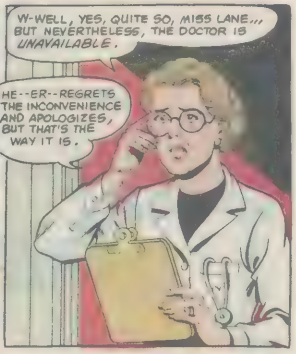

MAKE THAT FOUR MINUTES!
SUPERMAN, WAIT--!
FORGET IT! THE BIG GUY'S PROBABLY GOT A MILLION AND ONE OTHER PLACES HE HAS TO BE!
WHEE! WE'RE COMING UP FAST ON THE SKYLINE OF METROPOLIS! AFTER THE BOAT INCIDENT, I DECIDED TO RETURN JUST ENOUGH CONTROL TO SUPERMAN TO SEE WHERE HE WANTS TO GO...
... AND HERE COMES THE ANSWER STARING ME IN THE FACE--
--METROPOLIS!
UH-OH-- A SUDDEN VEER TO THE RIGHT--! LOOKS LIKE HE'S HEADING FOR A SPECIAL DESTINATION!
YEP--THE GALAXY BUILDING!
WGBS
THAT'S NO SURPRISE, I GUESS. I HEAR HE'S REAL FRIENDLY WITH SOME OF THE REPORTERS WHO WORK HERE!
WOW! HE'S HEADING TOWARD IT AWFULLY--
OO FAST!
RIGHT INTO THIS OPEN WINDOW!
HEY, HE BETTER PUT ON THE BRAKES IN A HURRY OR--

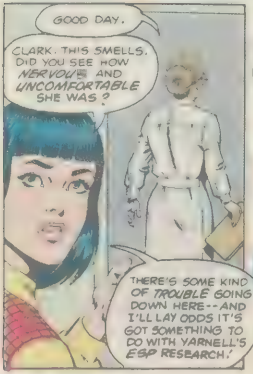
STOREROOM
BE RIGHT THERE, PHIL--SOON AS I GRAB A FEW REAMS FOR THE CITY ROOM.
HUNH--CLARK?!?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE IN YET!
GEE--I BETCHA I KNOW WHY HE PUT ON THESE CIVVIES AND GLASSES AT SUPER-SPEED!
SUPERMAN HAS ANOTHER IDENTITY HERE AT THE WGBS BUILDING--A SECRET ONE!
YOU KNOW, LOIS HAS BEEN LOOKING HIGH AND LOW FOR YOU! C'MON, FOLLOW ME DOWN THE HALL.
CLARK...THIS FRECKLE-FACED GUY CALLED HIM CLARK! THERE'S A CLARK WORKING AT WGBS--AND THE DAILY PLANET!
THAT COULD MEAN--MUST MEAN-THAT SUPERMAN'S SECRET IDENTITY IS--
CLARK KENT!
ABOUT TIME YOU DECIDED TO SHOW YOUR FACE AROUND HERE THIS MORNING!
ER... WHAT'S UP, LOIS?
SURE, LOIS LANE! THE STAR REPORTER FOR THE PLANET!
WHAT'S UP? OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH DR. YARNELL AT S.T.A.R. LABS, THAT'S ALL!
AFTER A HALF-DOZEN TURN-DOWNS, HE'S FINALLY CONSENTED TO GIVE THE PLANET THE SCOOP ABOUT HIS EXPERIMENTAL ESP RESEARCH!
OH... RIGHT. WE HAD BETTER GET A MOVE ON, THEN.
AFTER YOU, SIR!
NO OFFENSE, CLARK, BUT YOU REALLY LOOK OUT OF IT THIS MORNING.
DID YOU HAVE A BAD NIGHT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, LOIS... I DO FEEL A LITTLE STRANGE...
...BUT I'LL BE DARNED IF I KNOW WHAT THE TROUBLE IS! WHAT I FEEL LIKE MUST BE WHAT THE KIDS CALL... "SPACED-OUT".
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW? CLARK KENT, I'VE BEEN ACCUSING YOU OF "SPACING OUT" FOR YEARS!
WGBS
WEIRD! I WONDER IF THAT MEANS CLAR--ER, SUPERMAN CAN SENSE MY PRESENCE?
6

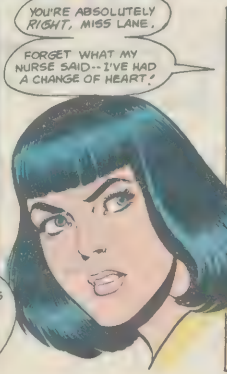

BUT EVEN THOUGH HE KNOWS THERE'S SOMETHING SCREWY GOIN' ON IN HIS HEAD--
--NEVER IN A ZILLION YEARS COULD HE GUESS THE TRUTH--

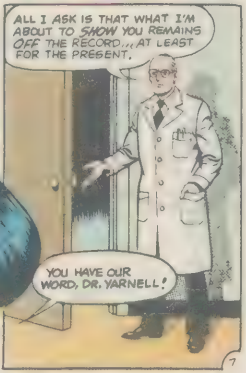
--THAT A TEN-YEAR-OLD KID HAS MENTALLY PROJECTED HIS MIND INTO SUPERMAN'S HEAD...
...FROM A LAB MILES AWAY DOWNTOWN!


S.T.A.R. LAB
WHAT--?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN OUR INTERVIEW'S BEEN CANCELLED?!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF THE TROUBLE WE WENT THROUGH TO SET THIS UP?
WHY, DR. YARNELL PROMISED US ONLY YESTERDAY...


W-WELL, YES, QUITE SO, MISS LANE... BUT NEVERTHELESS, THE DOCTOR IS UNAVAILABLE.
HE--ER--REGRETS THE INCONVENIENCE AND APOLOGIZES, BUT THAT'S THE WAY IT IS.


GOOD DAY.
CLARK. THIS SMELLS. DID YOU SEE HOW NERVOUS AND UNCOMFORTABLE SHE WAS?
THERE'S SOME KIND OF TROUBLE GOING DOWN HERE--AND I'LL LAY ODDS IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH YARNELL'S ESP RESEARCH.


YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, MISS LANE.
FORGET WHAT MY NURSE SAID--I'VE HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.


ALL I ASK IS THAT WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU REMAINS OFF THE RECORD...AT LEAST FOR THE PRESENT.
YOU HAVE OUR WORD, DR. YARNELL!

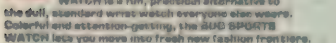
HERE AT S.T.A.R. WE'VE BEEN CONDUCTING A SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS ON ONE MARK TRAYNOR--AN EXTRAORDINARY 10-YEAR-OLD FROM A NEARBY SMALL TOWN.
SIMPLY PUT--MARK IS THE MOST AMAZING ESPER I HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED!
ESPER--AS IN ESP RESEARCH--EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION ?
PRECISELY, MISS LANE. I EXPECT TWO REPORTERS AS WELL-INFORMED AS YOU AND MR. KENT ARE WELL-ACQUAINTED WITH THE USUAL EXPERIMENTS IN THIS AREA.
LIKE SO-CALLED "MIND-READING" STUNTS ?
QUITE. BUT MARK'S INCREDIBLE MENTAL PROWESS NOT ONLY ENABLES HIM TO "READ" MINDS--
--BUT TO ACTUALLY "SEND" HIS MIND ANYWHERE HE CHOOSES--TO DIFFERENT LOCATIONS UP TO 50 MILES AWAY!
FASCINATING! I THINK I'VE READ ABOUT THIS PHENOMENON. IT'S CALLED "REMOTE VIEWING," IS IT NOT?
CORRECT.
AT THE MOMENT, MARK APPEARS TO BE IN A TRANCE--HE'S "UNDER" BECAUSE HE'S BEEN MIND-PROJECTING FOR HOURS NOW.
AND THAT'S WHERE THE PROBLEM BEGINS. THE MONITOR SCREEN YOU SEE PROVIDES US WITH IMAGES OF WHAT MARK'S PROJECTED MIND IS ACTUALLY "SEEING"--
--BUT WITH AN APPROXIMATE ONE HOUR DELAY!
ALL VERY ENLIGHTENING, DR YARNELL... BUT WE STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THE PROBLEM IS.

YEH! It looks like wild pop sculpture, but this bug is actually a three-function LCD digital wrist watch!

AMAZING! Just press the front bumper and—WHAM!—the auto body flips open to reveal a big, bright Liquid Crystal Display that shows you (1) accurate time, (2) today's date, and (3) digital seconds. Comes complete with a VELCRO watch band that fits all wrists—secure, yet quick to remove. Slip the bug off the band, and it rolls on its own wheels—a miniature toy car.

NEW! The BUG SPORTS WATCH is made of lightweight, space-age materials and comes with battery included and instructions in English, French and German. Each watch is packaged in a gift box, and there is a money-back GUARANTEE from the manufacturer.

FUN! Designed like a 1963 VW, the BUG SPORTS WATCH is a fun, practical alternative to the dull, standard wrist watch everyone else wears. Colorful and attention-getting, the BUG SPORTS WATCH lets you move into fresh new fashion frontiers. Wear the BUG on your wrist, and watch what happens!



FIVE FASHION COLORS!

Choose your favorite, or get several, to match different outfits and color schemes. Show up every day with a surprising new color! P.S. A great gift idea, when you're looking for something different!

CLIP or COPY

YEH rush me the BUG SPORTS WATCH in color(s) I've selected below. I understand each watch comes packaged with illustrated instructions, one-year battery, replacable and money-back guarantee!

Choose your colors:
- Bright Red
- Jet Black
- Pink w. Green bumpers
- Turquoise w. Pink bumpers
- Canary Yellow

Only $14.99 each
Please add $2.00 postage/handling for each watch.

Send check or money order to:
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666 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10103
Attention: Mr. Ed Shukin

NAME _____

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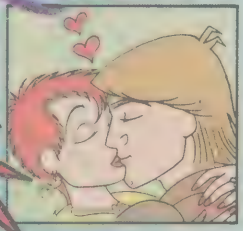
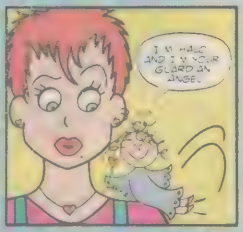
NOTE: Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

Angel Love is...



...warm



...whimsical

...and not at all what you'd expect!

A special eight-issue series about the troubles and triumphs that make us all heroes.

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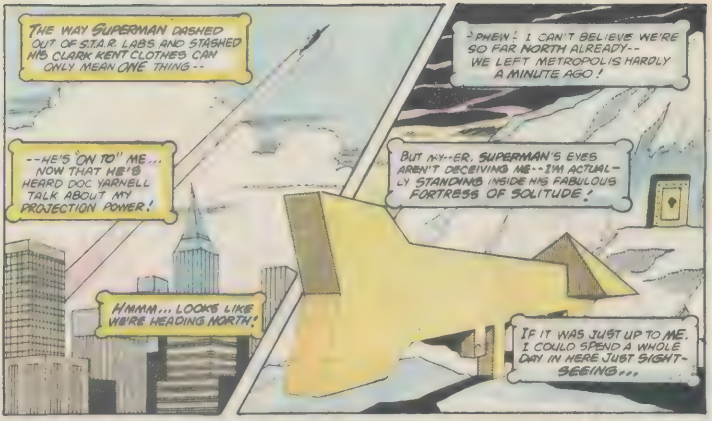
TAKE A LOOK AT THE SCREEN FOR YOURSELF, MISS LANE--AND I THINK YOU'LL BEGIN TO GRASP THE SITUATION!
?!? OMIGOSH! ACCORDING TO THE MONITOR... MARK APPEARS TO BE...FLYING TOWARD A CAPSIZED YACHT!
BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?
I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE ANSWER WOULD BE OBVIOUS TO A PAIR OF DAILY PLANET REPORTERS!
AFTER ALL--AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE CLOSE FRIENDS OF SUPERMAN'S?
SUPERMAN--OF COURSE! THOSE ARE HIS HANDS--HIS EYES WE'RE LOOKING THROUGH!
SPLASH!
BUT THAT MEANS--
I'M AFRAID SO! MARK ALWAYS CHOOSES A FOCAL OBJECT TO CONCENTRATE ON WHEN HE'S ABOUT TO MIND-PROJECT--
--AND MY THEORY IS THAT HE SAW SUPERMAN FLYING PAST THE STAR LABS JUST BEFORE WE PUT HIM UNDER...
...THUS SUPERMAN BECAME THE "FOCAL OBJECT" FOR TODAY'S MIND-PROJECTION.
BUT POOR MARK MUST'VE UNDERESTIMATED HIS AMAZING ESPER POTENTIAL THIS TIME--
--BECAUSE HE UNWITTINGLY NOT ONLY PROJECTED HIS MIND TO SUPERMAN...BUT MERGED HIS MIND WITH SUPERMAN'S MIND!
CLARK...
CLARK, WHERE ARE YOU OFF TO? DON'T YOU EVEN CARE WHAT HAPPENS HERE?
ER...SUPERMAN NEEDS HELP, THAT'S FOR SURE... BUT I DON'T SEE HOW IT'S GOING TO COME FROM YOU OR ME.
CLARK KENT! JUST WHEN I THINK I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND HIM...
YOUR COLLEAGUE HAS A POINT, MISS LANE, AND THE TROUBLE IS, DESPITE ALL OUR VAST RESOURCES HERE AT THE LAB--
--WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SEPARATE SUPERMAN AND MARK EITHER!
3


THE WAY SUPERMAN DASHED OUT OF S.T.A.R. LABS AND STASHED HIS CLARK KENT CLOTHES CAN ONLY MEAN ONE THING --
--HE'S "ON TO" ME... NOW THAT HE'S HEARD DOC YARNELL TALK ABOUT MY PROJECTION POWER!
HMMM... LOOKS LIKE WE'RE HEADING NORTH!
PHEW! I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE SO FAR NORTH ALREADY-- WE LEFT METROPOLIS HARDLY A MINUTE AGO!
BUT M-Y--ER, SUPERMAN'S EYES AREN'T DECEIVING ME--I'M ACTUALLY STANDING INSIDE HIS FABULOUS FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE!
IF IT WAS JUST UP TO ME, I COULD SPEND A WHOLE DAY IN HERE JUST SIGHT-SEEING...

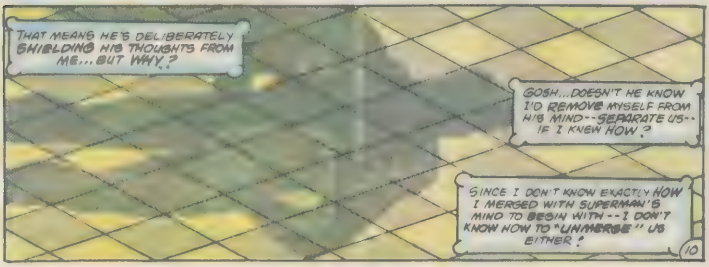
MODE
...BUT SUPERMAN'S MIND IS SO FILLED WITH DETERMINATION RIGHT NOW I DON'T DARE TRY TO RESIST IT.
HMM...HE'S CONSULTING HIS GIANT SUPER-COMPUTER...

UH-UH. NOW I'M REALLY IN FOR IT. HIS COMPUTER HAS JUST CONFIRMED THAT I'M SHARING HIS MIND... AGAINST HIS WILL!

MAYBE IF I CONCENTRATE SOME MORE, I CAN "READ" HIS THOUGHTS AND FIND OUT WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO ABOUT ME!

PRESENCE OF AN OUTSIDE ENTITY CONFIRMED--INTERLOPER IS SHARING YOUR PERCEPTIONS--MORE DATA NEEDED FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

IT'S NO USE! FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CAN'T GET A CLEAR FIX ON THE THOUGHT-PROCESSES OF SUPERMAN'S BRAIN.

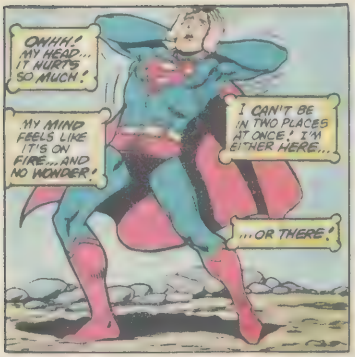

THAT MEANS HE'S DELIBERATELY SHIELDING HIS THOUGHTS FROM ME... BUT WHY?
GOSH... DOESN'T HE KNOW I'D REMOVE MYSELF FROM HIS MIND--SEPARATE US-- IF I KNEW HOW?
SINCE I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY HOW I MERGED WITH SUPERMAN'S MIND TO BEGIN WITH--I DON'T KNOW HOW TO "UNMERGE" US EITHER!

HERE WE ARE, BACK AT THE LAB AGAIN. THAT MUCH I EXPECTED...
S.T.A.R.
IT'S WHAT COMES NEXT THAT'S GOT ME STUMPED.
...AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE SITUATION, SUPERMAN. WE STILL DON'T KNOW HOW IN THE WORLD YOU MANAGED TO PINPOINT S.T.A.R. LABS AS THE SOURCE OF YOUR PROBLEM--
--BUT WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
I ONLY WISH WE COULD OFFER A SOLUTION THAT WOULD EXTRICATE BOTH YOU AND YOUNG MARK FROM THIS MISFIRED EXPERIMENT.
GEE, I MUST ADMIT, THE MAN OF STEEL IS TAKING ALL THIS A LOT CALMER THAN I THOUGHT HE WOULD.
I MEAN, CONSIDERING HE MUST KNOW BY NOW THAT I KNOW SUPERMAN IS REALLY CLARK KENT--OR IS IT VICE VERSA?
WHAT YOU'VE TOLD ME ABOUT YOUR AMAZING ESP RESEARCH HAS GIVEN ME A FEW IDEAS ABOUT A SOLUTION OF MY OWN, DR. YARNELL.
THAT'S FUNNY... I'M STARTING TO FEEL STRANGE... EVERYTHING GETTING HAZY...
...LIKE I'M FALLING INTO SOME SORT OF TRANCE.
AND IN JUST A FEW MORE MINUTES--WHEN THE HOUR DELAY FACTOR RUNS OUT--S.T.A.R.'S MONITOR SCREEN WILL SHOW WHAT I ALREADY SAW--
--PEOPLE AT THE DAILY PLANET CALLING SUPERMAN "CLARK"!
EVEN AS I SPEAK, I'M CONCENTRATING ALL MY WILL POWER ON FORCING THAT PORTION OF MY MIND NOW "OCCUPIED" BY MARK--
--FORCING HIS PRESENCE INTO A TEMPORARY, SUBCONSCIOUS "SLEEP"...
UHHH... THAT'S THE TRUTH...
EVERYTHING'S GETTING BLACK!

UHHH... AWAKE AGAIN AT LAST. I DON'T THINK I WAS OUT OF IT VERY LONG.
WHATEVER SUPERMAN WAS PLANNING BACK AT S.T.A.R. MUST HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD--
--BECAUSE WE'RE "UP, UP AND AWAYING" AT FULL SPEED!
AND NO WONDER! THAT'S ONE MEAN-LOOKING SPACESHIP HEADING TOWARD METROPOLIS!
MAYBE SUPERMAN USED HIS SUPER-SENSES WHILE I WAS STILL UNDER TO DETERMINE THE E.T.'S ABOARD ARE THE UNFRIENDLY TYPE.
ATTENTION, SUPERMAN!
THE CITY YOU CALL METROPOLIS IS ABOUT TO BE WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE!
YESSIREE. DEFINITELY UNFRIENDLY.
AND IT DOESN'T TAKE A SUPER-BRAIN TO GUESS THEY JUST DROPPED SOME TYPE OF BOMB!
OUR EXTERMINATION POD IS DESIGNED TO ANNIHILATE ALL OF METROPOLIS AND EVERY BEING WHO DWELLS WITHIN ITS CONFINES
--SAVE ONE!
ONE BEING ALONE SHALL SURVIVE!
WHY WOULD ALIEN INVADERS WANT TO KILL EVERYONE IN METROPOLIS EXCEPT FOR A CERTAIN PERSON?
I'M SURE SUPER-MAN IS PUZZLED TOO--BUT MEAN-TIME, HE'S USING HIS X-RAY VISION TO CHECK OUT THE ALIEN HARDWARE!

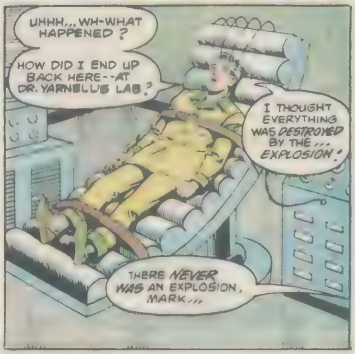
I SEE THE SAME "SPACE-TECH" INWARDS THAT SUPERMAN SEES-- BUT I HOPE ME CAN MAKE MORE SENSE OF THEM THAN I CAN.
A GRIEVOUS ERROR, SUPERMAN!
WE ASSUMED YOU WOULD ATTEMPT TO VERIFY THE DESTRUCTIVE POWER OF OUR WEAPON--
--THUS OUR POD WAS EQUIPPED WITH AN INVISIBLE REPELLO-FIELD, DESIGNED TO BE TRIGGERED BY YOUR SUPER-VISION!
THEY'RE NOT KIDDING! SUPERMAN IS BEING FORCED TO VEER AWAY FROM THE BOMB!
DON'T JUST HANG THERE, SUPERMAN! DO SOMETHING!
OH, NO! I HAVE A SNEAKING SUSPICION THE REPELLO-FIELD WAS DESIGNED TO DELAY SUPERMAN JUST ENOUGH--
--ENOUGH TO MAKE SURE IT'D BE TOO LATE FOR HIM!
--EVEN WITH HIS SUPER-SPEED--
--TO CATCH UP WITH THE ALIEN BOMB--
--BEFORE--

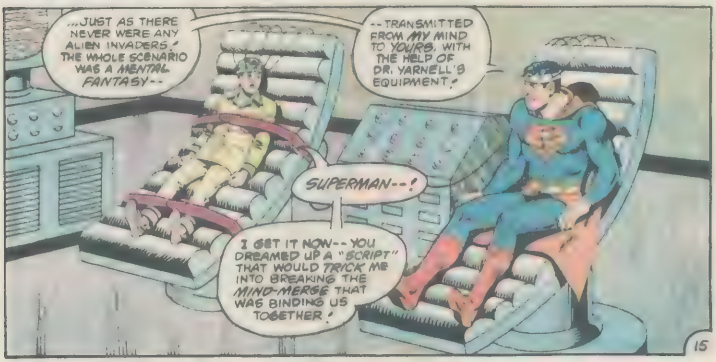
--DETONATE!!
OH, LORD--! THIS WAS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN... BUT NOW IT'S TOO LATE!
METROPOLIS IS BEYOND ALL HOPE NOW!
POOR SUPERMAN! I CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW HE FEELS AT THIS MOMENT!
ALL THE YEARS HE SPENT PROTECTING THE PEOPLE OF THIS CITY!
AND NOW...
...NOW THEY'RE ALL GONE! SUPERMAN'S GONNA BLAME HIMSELF FOR THIS TRAGEDY FOR THE REST OF HIS--
OVER HERE, SUPERMAN!
SOMEONE'S STILL ALIVE?! THE ALIENS WERE RIGHT--ONE PERSON DID SURVIVE THE BOMB!
PHEW! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO METROPO--! SUPERMAN?
IT LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING JUST WENT TO... BLAZES!
HOLY SMOKES! THERE'S JUST NO WAY I CAN BE SEEING WHAT I'M SEEING!!
HOW CAN I BE SITTING OVER THERE--
--AND--I'M STILL IN HERE--SHARING SUPERMAN'S MIND?!


OHHH! MY HEAD... IT HURTS SO MUCH!
MY MIND FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...AND NO WONDER!
I CAN'T BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE! I'M EITHER HERE...
...OR THERE!

EYAHHHH!
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT FOR SURE!

EYAHHHH!


UHHH,,,WH-WHAT HAPPENED?
HOW DID I END UP BACK HERE--AT DR. YARNELL'S LAB?
I THOUGHT EVERYTHING WAS DESTROYED BY THE,,, EXPLOSION!
THERE NEVER WAS AN EXPLOSION, MARK,,,


,,,JUST AS THERE NEVER WERE ANY ALIEN INVADERS! THE WHOLE SCENARIO WAS A MENTAL FANTASY--
--TRANSMITTED FROM MY MIND TO YOURS, WITH THE HELP OF DR. YARNELL'S EQUIPMENT!
SUPERMAN--!
I GET IT NOW-- YOU DREAMED UP A "SCRIPT" THAT WOULD TRICK ME INTO BREAKING THE MIND-MERGE THAT WAS BINDING US TOGETHER!

YOU GUESSED IT, SON. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE WAY YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW?
YOU KNOW HOW YOU WAKE UP SOMETIMES WHEN YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN DREAMING--
--BUT YOU CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER ALL THE DETAILS OF THE DREAM?
MARK!
THANK THE STARS, YOU'RE UP AND AROUND AGAIN!
RELAX, MOM. EVERYTHING'S COOL!
WHEN DR. YARNELL PHONED ME, HE SOUNDED SO GRIM... I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT! I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE--
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WAS, MOM! I WAS SUPERMAN FOR A DAY!
I JUST WISH I COULD REMEMBER MORE OF WHAT I SAW WHEN I WAS SHARING SUPER-MAN'S MIND!
I'M AFRAID ALL THE MEMORIES YOU'VE "LOST" ARE BURIED DEEP IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS, MARK.
YOUR MIND IS NO LONGER TRANSMITTING ANY DELAYED IMAGES! THE MIND-MERGE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY SEVERED!
WHEN I PUT MARK'S MIND "UNDER" IN A TRANCE, I ALSO PLANTED A DEEP HYPNOTIC COMMAND FORCING HIM TO "BURY" THE DETAILS OF HIS "DAY" WITH ME DEEP INTO HIS SUBCONSCIOUS!
LET'S HOPE FOR BOTH OUR SAKES, THE CLARK KENT PORTION OF MY DAY REMAINS A SECRET MARK NEVER KNOWS HE SHARED!
S'LONG, SUPERMAN!
WHATEVER ADVENTURES WE SHARED, THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE--
--YOU MADE MY DAY!!
THE END

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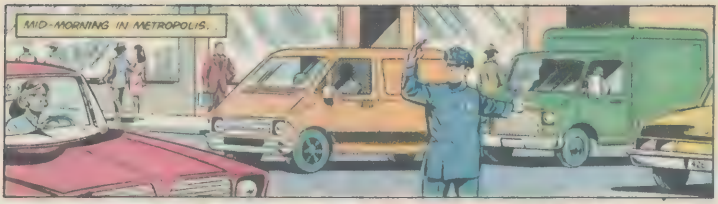
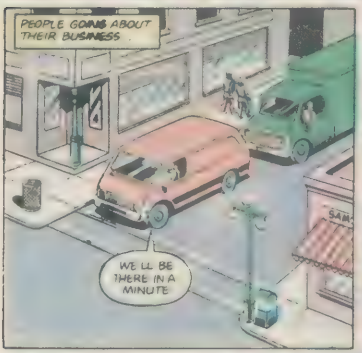
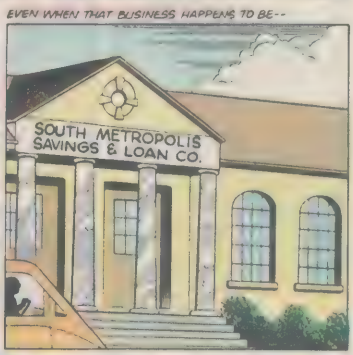


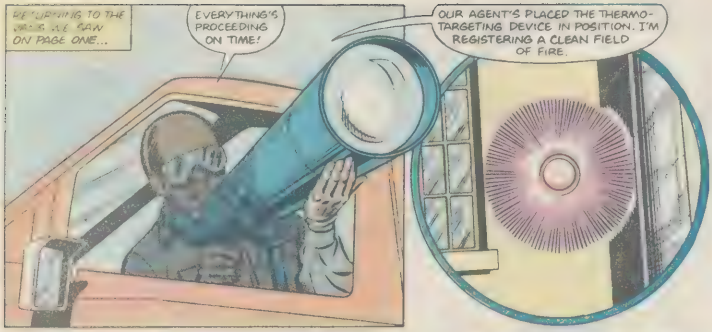


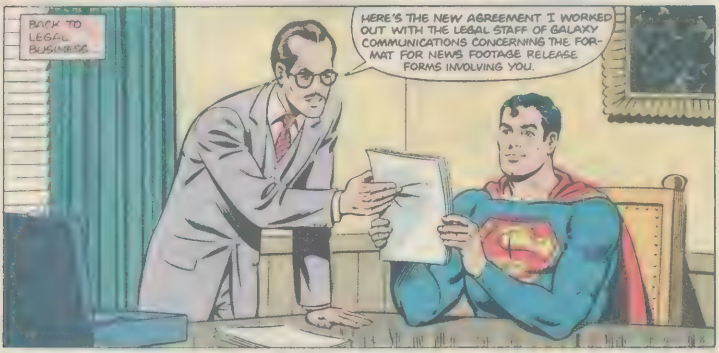


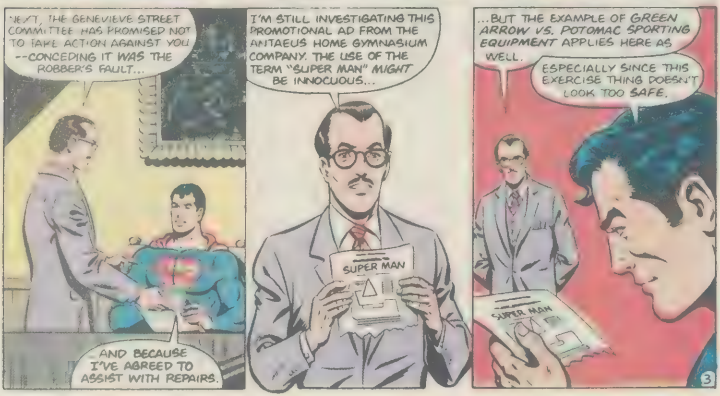
--HIGHLY ILLEGAL!
TARGET IN SIGHT!
OF COURSE, THERE ARE OTHERS GOING ABOUT THEIR VERY LEGAL BUSINESS, AS WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT IN...
"EVEN A SUPERMAN NEEDS A LAWYER!"

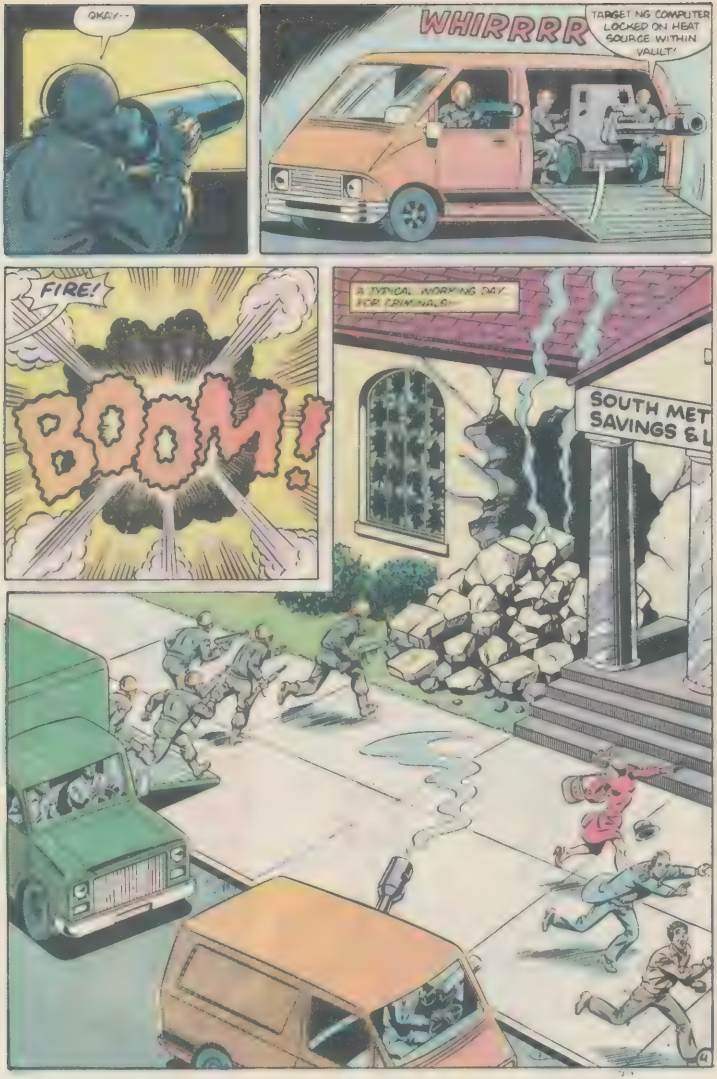
WRITER: MICHAEL J. WOLFF PENCILLER: KURT SCHAFFENBERGER INKER: DAVE HUNT
LETTERER: DUNCAN ANDREWS COLORIST: GENE D'ANGELO EDITOR JULIUS SCHWARTZ

ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY, OTHER PEOPLE GO ABOUT THEIR WORK...
SIX MINUTES EARLY. NOT BAD
PEEKSKILL GIDDINGS & HANK
...SUCH AS DOUGLAS GIDDINGS, ATTORNEY.
ZEE ZEE ZEE ZEE
GLAD IT DOES MORE THAN TELL TIME!
SUMMONED BY THE SIGNAL DEVICE IN HIS WATCH, THE PRIVATE ELEVATOR TAKES GIDDINGS TO THE HIGHEST ROOM IN THE WALLINGFORD TOWER.
ALL ROUTINE, BUT I LOVE IT!
...THREE...TWO.. ONE! AND--
--EXACTLY ON TIME!
LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO BUSINESS, DOUGLAS!

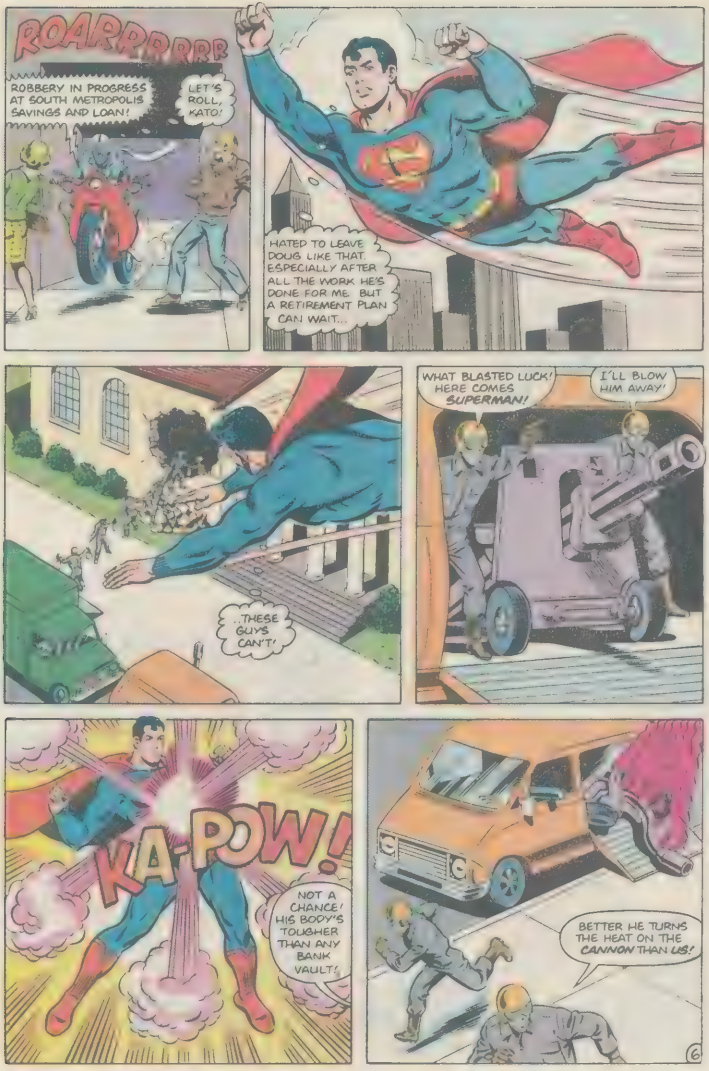

RE-TURNING TO THE VIEWS WE SAW ON PAGE ONE...
EVERYTHING'S PROCEEDING ON TIME!
OUR AGENT'S PLACED THE THERMO-TARGETING DEVICE IN POSITION. I'M REGISTERING A CLEAN FIELD OF FIRE.

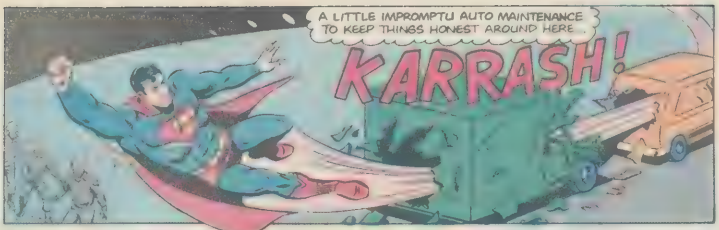

BACK TO LEGAL BUSINESS...
HERE'S THE NEW AGREEMENT I WORKED OUT WITH THE LEGAL STAFF OF GALAXY COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING THE FORMAT FOR NEWS FOOTAGE RELEASE FORMS INVOLVING YOU.

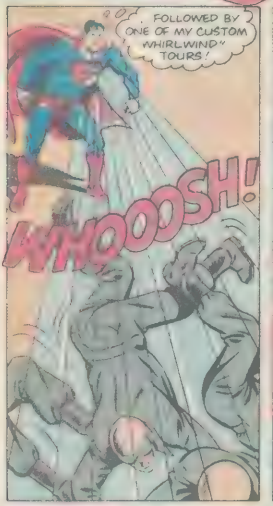

NEXT, THE GENEVIEVE STREET COMMITTEE HAS PROMISED NOT TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST YOU --CONCEDING IT WAS THE ROBBER'S FAULT...
AND BECAUSE I'VE AGREED TO ASSIST WITH REPAIRS.
I'M STILL INVESTIGATING THIS PROMOTIONAL AD FROM THE ANTAEUS HOME GYMNASIUM COMPANY. THE USE OF THE TERM "SUPER MAN" MIGHT BE INNOCUOUS...
SUPER MAN
...BUT THE EXAMPLE OF GREEN ARROW VS. POTOMAC SPORTING EQUIPMENT APPLIES HERE AS WELL.
ESPECIALLY SINCE THIS EXERCISE THING DOESN'T LOOK TOO SAFE.
SUPER MAN

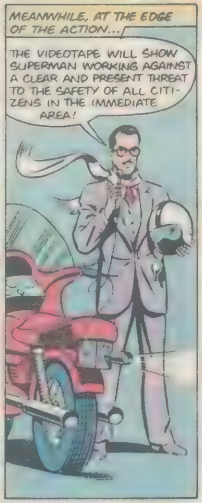

OKAY...
WHIRRRR
TARGETING COMPUTER LOCKED ON HEAT SOURCE WITHIN VAULT!
FIRE!
BOOM!
A TYPICAL WORKING DAY FOR CRIMINALS—
SOUTH MET
SAVINGS &L

...AND SUPERMAN!
HEARING AN ALARM SOMEWHERE
NOW, YOU'LL AGREE THAT THIS RETIREMENT PLAN IS EXTREMELY PROMISING.
SORRY, DOUGLAS! DUTY CALLS!
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN! HAPPENS ALL THE TIME!
ZEE ZEE ZEE
BY FLOOOG LUTHOR
WARNING! COMMAND FOR HIGH-SPEED DESCENT HAS BEEN GIVEN. YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO PREPARE.
TWO
ONE
WHOOOSH
SECONDS LATER
AUTOSTART SYSTEM WORKING FINE.
RRRRRRRRRR
5

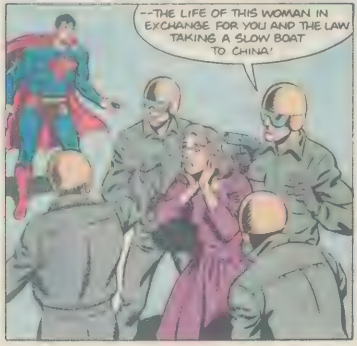

ROARRRRRR
ROBBERY IN PROGRESS AT SOUTH METROPOLIS SAVINGS AND LOAN!
LET'S ROLL, KATO!
HATED TO LEAVE DOUG LIKE THAT, ESPECIALLY AFTER ALL THE WORK HE'S DONE FOR ME. BUT A RETIREMENT PLAN CAN WAIT...
..THESE GUYS CAN'T!
WHAT BLASTED LUCK! HERE COMES SUPERMAN!
I'LL BLOW HIM AWAY!
KA-POW!
NOT A CHANCE! HIS BODY'S TOUGHER THAN ANY BANK VAULT!
BETTER HE TURNS THE HEAT ON THE CANNON THAN US!
6


A LITTLE IMPROMPTU AUTO MAINTENANCE TO KEEP THINGS HONEST AROUND HERE...
KARRASH!

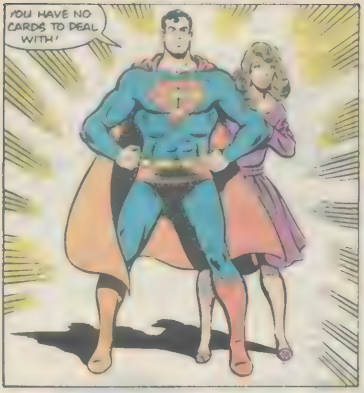

FOLLOWED BY ONE OF MY CUSTOM "WHIRLWIND" TOURS!
WHOOOSH!

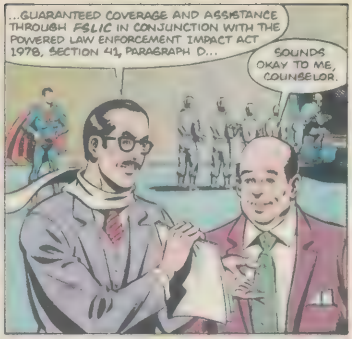

MEANWHILE, AT THE EDGE OF THE ACTION...
THE VIDEOTAPE WILL SHOW SUPERMAN WORKING AGAINST A CLEAR AND PRESENT THREAT TO THE SAFETY OF ALL CITIZENS IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA!

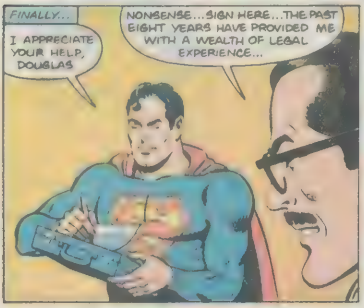
REFER TO SUPERMAN VIDEO-REFERENCE FILE ENTRIES 67, 142, AND 2295 FOR COLLATED INCIDENTS. CONSULT 1980 INDEX OF SUPERJURISPRUDENCE.
SUPERMAN, I'LL MAKE A DEAL WITH YOU--


--THE LIFE OF THIS WOMAN IN EXCHANGE FOR YOU AND THE LAW TAKING A SLOW BOAT TO CHINA!

WE'RE PREPARED TO ARGUE THIS OUT TO THE BITTER END IF NECESSARY...
...UH... WHERE'D SUPES GO--?

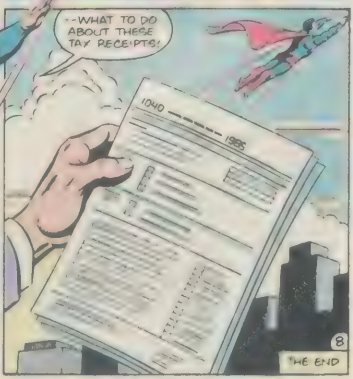

YOU HAVE NO CARDS TO DEAL WITH!


...GUARANTEED COVERAGE AND ASSISTANCE THROUGH FBLIC IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE POWERED LAW ENFORCEMENT IMPACT ACT 1978, SECTION 41, PARAGRAPH D...
SOUNDS OKAY TO ME, COUNSELOR.


FINALLY...
I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP, DOUGLAS
NONSENSE...SIGN HERE...THE PAST EIGHT YEARS HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH A WEALTH OF LEGAL EXPERIENCE...

BESIDES--OH, DON'T FORGET THAT COPY FOR THE ACLU--
--THERE'S THAT MATTER OF SAVING MY LIFE IN VIENNA YEARS AGO

SO LONG TILL OUR NEXT BIMONTHLY MEETING--WHEN THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WILL BE--


--WHAT TO DO ABOUT THESE TAX RECEIPTS!
1040
1985

THE END

DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

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Dear Julie and Bob,

The cover of *ACTION* #577 caught me by surprise. The last thing I expected to see in a *Superman* story was a vampire! I opened up the comic with the firm conviction that I would not like the story.

For me, super-heroes and vampires have never mixed well. Even solo vampire comics have always left me cold—if you'll pardon the expression! Why, then, do I pen another laudatory letter of congratulations? It comes down to simply this: "Caitiff: First of the Vampires" was a successful blend of plot, script, pacing, and characterization which made it impossible not to enjoy.

Never have I seen the subject of vampires handled so well in comics. Keith Giffen and Robert Loren Fleming left me caring about Caitiff by the end of the issue.

DALE COE
56 Whitecross Road
Warrington, Cheshire
WA5 1LR England

Dale, glad you liked the story and art and that we've convinced you to re-examine a genre you've previously disliked.—LR

*****

Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

"Caitiff: The First of the Vampires!" in *ACTION* #577 was the best solo *Superman* adventure I have read in some time. Keith Giffen's Shuster-esque style was, as usual, a great tribute to the premiere *Superman* artist. Giffen is one of the few artists who can draw the Man of Steel as he is supposed to be. When *Superman* performs a feat of strength, you can almost see him sweat. When I read this story, I imagined how excited the comics readers of yesteryear must have felt when they read *Superman's* adventures in the early issues of *ACTION*.

I also enjoyed the plot. I especially liked the way *Superman* understood, although he obviously did not approve of, Caitiff's actions. This is a far more interesting *Superman* than the one who simply leaps into action and takes every situation at face value. Let's see more of this story type in the future.

JONATHAN GILBERT
271 Southcrest Drive
London, Ontario, Canada N6J 1N3

Jonathan, two important things about your letter, aside from its kind words. First, I think we're seeing the birth of an adjective: "Shustereseque." You know you've become a classic when you've made it to adjective status. Second, you made me feel old, which I may very well be. Are Bob and I really "comics readers of yesteryear" already?!—LR

*****

Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

Robert Loren Fleming and Keith Giffen produce great comics. *ACTION* #577 was one such example. The dialogue was intelligent, ironic, satiric, and humorous. The art was further evidence that Giffen is one of the most important artists in the industry. It is rare that one can say about a comic, "Yeah, it's great, but is it art?" Art, with a capital A, is one of the most foreign substances in 95% of the comics produced today. But when I see something like *ACTION* #577 or the Fleming/Giffen graphic novel, HELL ON EARTH, I am reassured that there are still people out there concerned with Artistic quality in comic books.

NATHAN PEASE
University of Pennsylvania
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307 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Nathan, the main reason I type these lettercols is that Bob is very, very, very concerned with art (make that Art) and Quality. That's why he's always going on trips to on-site print checks, to make sure that you get the very best product possible. And from what I've seen—and that's a lot!—DC produces the very best quality in comics, thanks in large part to hubby Bob's daily efforts!—LR

*****

Dear Julie, Bob, and Laurie,

In some ways, Keith Giffen has become the Woody Allen of comics. I mean, how many times have you heard someone say, "Gee, I wish Woody Allen would make a funny movie again, like his early ones." There seems to be a number of comic fans who are saying, "Gee, I wish Keith Giffen would draw normally, like he did in the early *Legion of Super-Heroes* stories." I must admit that I have not always liked Keith's "new style" art. However, I have always admired him for changing his style. He could have been very successful with his old "normal" style work, but he decided to experiment artistically and thus risk creative, popular, and financial disaster. Of course, he aspires to great success, and this is necessary for the growth of art. Where would we be today if Og the Artistic One had listened to the other caveman when he said, "Hey, stick to the regular style! Your stuff doesn't deserve the wall it's painted on."

In any case, I consider Giffen's art in *ACTION* #577 a major artistic triumph. His style is interpretative and really came together to capture the raw, mythic essence of *Superman*. Keith's *Superman* was neither a glad-handed do-gooder nor a grim super-avenger. Keith caught the mixture essential to *Superman*: the single-minded pursuit of good, the great power, the compassionate soul, the larger-than-life yet still human presence. All of that—and more—was right here on the page!

My only disagreement with the story came on the final page, when *Superman* speculated that he would do the same, were he in Caitiff's position. On the one hand, this denies *Superman's* basic morality. Caitiff kills innocent people to survive. On the other hand, it is nonsensical, for if *Superman* were precisely in Caitiff's position, he would not be *Superman*, but a murdering creature intent on survival over conscience.

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272 Station B
Weston, ONT M9L2R9

T.M., I couldn't agree more with your position on experimentation to allow for greater creativity. A while ago, I made beef and broccoli with chicken and red peppers. Bob was surprised there was no beef or broccoli in his beef and broccoli, but did admire my risk-taking. Seriously, we have to admire anyone who tries to continue striving to achieve more. It's a very difficult thing to do in this world.—LR

*****

Not all the comments about Keith's work were positive. Witness the missives which follow—LR

Look, I know about artistic license and all that; I dabble in it myself, but Keith Giffen's artwork in #577 goes too far! I know a lot of people will say

they love it, and that the style added to the bizarre nature of the story, and I guess they are entitled to their opinion. I say, tell Mr. Giffen not to vent his expressionistic efforts on this time-honored comic.

STEVE WREN
92 Derby Crescent
Chipping Norton 2170
NSW Australia

Keith Giffen's art just doesn't look good anymore. Yes, he used some Joe Shuster swipes in depicting *Superman*, but he's done that before and he'd done it better (as with his first two *Ambush Bug* stories in DC COMICS PRESENTS).

HURRICANE HEERAN
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

Come on, what's with Giffen's art in #577? The distorted, simplistic drawings were fine for Caitiff, but were not appropriate for any other character. The story, on the other hand, was entertaining and well-written. Although a rather linear progression of events, the story was well-paced and interesting. If the art had been up to the quality of the writing, you would have had an excellent fusion of horror and super-heroes.

MILO
P.O. Box 5237
Balboa Island, CA 92662

*****

Dear Editor,

"Caitiff: The First of the Vampires" was an interesting and unusual change of pace from the short story format. A dark, shadowy tale that took place almost completely at night, it nonetheless had a tongue-in-cheek approach right up until the final pages. That an element of wry humor kept cropping up was no surprise, considering the story was written and drawn by Fleming, Giffen, and Oksner, a trio that creates *Ambush Bug*'s insane frolics. Caitiff was no *Ambush Bug*, but he did have his moments of hilarity, especially his agitated reaction upon escaping *Superman*'s chest wall of steel. Comedic moments aside, this story had quite a few moments of weird evocative power: Caitiff changing into mist and slipping into the WGBS building, the bizarre on-air confrontation with Clark Kent; Caitiff's reactions after being inhaled into *Superman*'s lungs; Caitiff's nightmare.

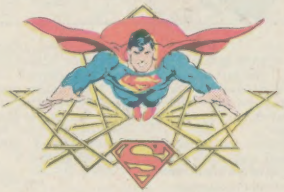
Art-wise, in this issue we were treated to more of Giffen's unique and ever-evolving storytelling style. His work here wasn't as aggressively modern and experimental as say, *DCCP* #88, but the Giffen touch is always instantly recognizable. Highlights of the art in this issue were depictions of Caitiff as tall and demented, pathetic and terrifying at the same time. Giffen's visuals and Fleming's dialogue made the vampire a vivid and memorable character. Also great was Giffen's blocky *Superman*. I also enjoyed the full-page drawings on pages 5 and 22 very much.

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

David, good to hear from you, and enjoyed your little drawings on the last page of the letter. Your art has changed, too!—LR

*****

That's all till next issue. As Bob always says, remember to "Look! Up in the sky..."—Laurie Rozakis



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